



Newsletter for Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

<http://www.ai.org/dnr/lakemich/index.htm>

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Winter 2001

## Winter Recreation

by Jennifer Kane



Snowboarder at Devil's Slide

After three relatively mild winters, a series of snow storms blanketed Northwest Indiana. Phil Griffith, Director of the Porter County Emergency Management Agency said, "the county's snowfall for December totaled 40 inches, well above the typical 18 inches." Griffith added that the National Weather Service has determined that the months of November and December were the coldest on record. Lou Brennan of the National Park Service recorded a total snowfall in December of 36.2 inches, with a December average at the Lakeshore of 10.4 inches. Winter - what a great season for outdoor recreation in Northwest Indiana. When the whole

of dune country sparkles with snow, the lure of outdoor recreation is very great. Wendy Smith, a naturalist at Indiana Dunes State Park remarked that she has seen a "definite increase in visitors to the park, because of the amount of snow this year."

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's 45 miles of hiking trails have transformed into wintry landscapes offering an excellent snow pack for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. The park offers ranger-guided "hikes" [on cross-country skis] along the dunes and wetlands. Skiers sleuth the snowy landscape in search of animal tracks and other signs of life while learning how the plants and wildlife have adapted to the harsh winter conditions. Cross-country skiing and snow shoeing are permitted on unmaintained park trails and other designated areas when there is adequate snow cover to prevent damage. The Ly-Co-Ki-We trail system is a visitor favorite. Snowshoes allow you to go almost anywhere. They can be especially fun at night under a full moon and clear skies. However, the use of

sleds, saucers, toboggans, inner tubes, and snowboards, is prohibited in order to protect the park's sensitive

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## Winter Recreation Continued...

environment. A variety of other indoor and outdoor ranger-led programs are offered throughout the winter. For future activities, access the park's calendar at [www.nps.gov/indu/events/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/events/index.htm)

If careening down a groomed hill is your fancy, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department maintains sledding hills through March 31 when adequate snow cover allows at Lemon Lake and Oak Ridge Prairie. Devil's Slide, a large dune blowout located at Indiana Dunes State Park, presents a grand place for tubing and sledding. Devil's Slide is located adjacent to the beach pavilion. Check the park office for "grooming conditions." Miller Woods, with its hilly terrain, offers a 2 1/2-hour cross-country ski excursion for experienced skiers.

If you prefer observing nature's winter play from inside, you can view juncos, black cap chickadees, blue jays, and white breasted nut hatches flitting from branch to feeder at Indiana Dunes State Park's Nature Center. You can see cardinals puffed up against the cold waiting for their turn at the feeders.

Lake Michigan offers her own winter extravaganza. Stephen Davis, DNR's Lake Michigan Specialist, explained that, "when temperatures dip, a layer of ice forms on the surface of Lake Michigan. As the winds blow across the lake from the north, the ice is pushed up onto the shore forming 'shelf ice.'" Shelf ice is lightweight in composition with air pockets. A person applying even a small amount of weight on the ice can easily fall through into the frigid water. It is best to observe this phenomenon from a distance.

Thanks to winter's snow bonus, there will be plenty of opportunity in the foreseeable future to explore Northwest Indiana by ski, snowshoe, or sled.

For more program information call:  
Indiana National Lakeshore  
(219) 926-7561, Ext. 225  
Indiana Dunes State Park  
(219) 926-1952.



Cross-country skiers,  
photo courtesy of  
Rich Fields



Sledder at Devil's Slide



Devil's Slide



Snowman on top of Mt. Baldy

# Indiana's Coastal Historic and Cultural Resources

by Laurie Rounds

Northwest Indiana is a unique region that not only offers varied recreational experiences, but also contains a multitude of unique historic and cultural resources. In an effort to learn more about the region's historic and cultural resources and preservation needs, the DNR worked with a focus group of local experts to complete the "Coastal Historic and Cultural Resources Study of the Lake Michigan Watershed". The final report is now available at [www.state.in.us/dnr/lakemich](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/lakemich)

The study was a collaboration between the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and the Division of Water's Lake Michigan Coastal Program. Through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, consultants, Shive-Hattery Inc., were able to take an in-depth look at the coastal region and, in cooperation with the focus group, at ways to protect its historic and cultural resources.

The report shows that in addition to forming a geologic region shaped by glaciers, the watershed is also a cultural region. "There is no doubt that this watershed represents a unique region in the state of Indiana, and quite possibly the entire country. The diversity displayed within this region covers everything from industry to orchards, from natural resources to railroads, and from Native American trails to international architecture. This is a region that abounds with history; an area quite literally shaped both geologically and culturally by the effects of ice and water over many years." (Shive-Hattery)

Early inhabitants of the area were the Native Americans and fur traders who lived and moved about the region's lakes, swamps, and rivers. As the railroad began to develop in the early 1800s, towns developed at stops along the track, industries grew, and people settled the region. The railroads also allowed city dwellers and Chicago residents to escape to the shoreline, hunt and fish, and enjoy recreational resorts.

There are literally hundreds of cultural and historic resources in the Lake Michigan watershed. It was therefore impossible in the scope of this study to evaluate each resource. Instead, the study identified several



Barker Mansion, Michigan City, IN

categories that represent the various types of resources found in the coastal region.

These categories include:

- Downtown commercial districts
- Industry
- Residential districts
- Transportation
- Agriculture
- Natural/green space
- Recreation/green space
- Significant architecture
- Culture/education

- Culture/religious
- Culture/sculpture
- Railroad
- Cemetery
- Bridges
- Native American sites

In cooperation with the focus group, the study identified examples in each county that represent the above categories and that were considered important to local communities. For example, there is Marquette Park along the lakeshore in Lake County, that is representative of the region's history in Recreation/green space. In Porter County one can visit the Beverly Shores South Shore Railroad Station and learn more about the railroad and Transportation. In LaPorte County, the Residential District of Long Beach includes several John Lloyd Wright homes.

The study focuses on recommendations for consideration in approaching the Lake Michigan watershed as a region of cultural and historic significance and includes a database of numerous important sites. Although there are many steps to be taken to address its preservation needs, the "Coastal Historic and Cultural Resources Study of the Lake Michigan Watershed" brings attention to the opportunities that exist for the region and Indiana.

# Around The Great Lakes: Spotlight on Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation

Agriculture in the Great Lakes basin is diverse and productive. About one-third of the land in the U.S. portion of the basin is used for agriculture, supporting nearly 7 percent of the U.S. production. Dairy, grain, corn and livestock are common crops; however, specialty crops, vineyards, and orchards also thrive in areas of unique climate. Many organizations are beginning to recognize the costs associated with lost agricultural land use. In studies compiled by American Farmland Trust, a private non-profit organization founded in 1980 to protect our nation's farmland, the cost of community services and the relationship to the amount of revenue generated showed residential land uses cost more in services than they generate in revenues. Farmland and open space generate revenue and require very little in the way of public services. Due to population growth and changing land use, farmland preservation is increasingly becoming a concern throughout the Great Lakes region.

Pennsylvania's Lake Erie coastline is located in Erie County. As with other Great Lake states, the Lake Erie region has experienced increased residential, urban, and industrial land uses as more people flock to coastal regions. In the last 40 years, over 40% of Erie County's farmland, has been converted to other uses. Only about 29% of Erie County is still being farmed, compared to roughly 52% in 1959. Other counties in Pennsylvania have also experienced the loss of farmland.

In response to Pennsylvania's rapid loss of farmland, the Farmland Protection Program was created. To preserve viable agricultural land, the



Great Lakes Basin

Farmland Protection Program provides funding which supports area farming. Pennsylvania currently has 50 county-based farmland protection programs. County Conservation Districts provide direct administrative support for these programs in 15 counties. In 35 counties, conservation districts provide indirect support services such as conservation planning and annual farm inspections.

The Pennsylvania Farmland Protection Program was expanded by the establishment of the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE) in 1988. The PACE allows counties to buy the development rights to high-quality farmland that farmers want to preserve, keeping that land in active agricultural use for future generations.

Erie County's roots are deeply embedded in agriculture and family

farms. The Erie County Conservation District's philosophy is that the economic health and well being of their region has always depended on those who have dedicated their lives to farming. According to David Skellie, Director of the Erie County Department of Planning "our most productive farms are being threatened by increasing growth and uncontrolled development." In 1992, Erie County government recognized this philosophy and decided to participate in the Farmland Protection Program. To supplement the development of this program at the local level, the Erie County Council established the Agricultural Land Preservation Board and designated the Erie County Department of Planning to administer the program. By purchasing conservation easements, this program preserves land for agricultural production and ensures the viability of agriculture as



## Farmland Preservation Continued...

an industry and a way of life. An agricultural easement through Pennsylvania's program is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and a government agency or conservation organization that limits land use to agricultural production. Private ownership of the land is retained and current or future owners can continue to farm or sell the property. The agricultural easement is purchased in perpetuity and is binding on all future landowners. Agricultural buildings may be constructed under the agricultural easements. The existing farmhouse can be repaired, replaced, expanded, or improved. One additional residence can be built (on a parcel of no more than two acres) to house farm employees. Agricultural uses of the land are not restricted in any way. Additionally, Pennsylvania's PACE does not give public access to preserved property.

The purchase price is an amount mutually agreed upon by the landowner and each county board in Pennsylvania. The value of a perpetual easement is determined by an independent, licensed real estate appraiser. Generally, the value is estimated to be the difference between the farm's market value at its "highest and best use" and the farm's value for agricultural production. Those who agree to sell an easement will receive financial compensation as well as security of land use. Normal farming operations are protected from incompatible non-farmland uses and from complaints of public nuisance.

Pennsylvania dedicated funds from a two cent per pack cigarette tax and the Growing Greener Act; together



City of LaPorte, I N

these provide approximately \$42 million per year statewide for easement purchases. Farms considered for protection under the Pennsylvania program must be located within designated Agricultural Security Areas (ASAs). ASAs are considered the first step toward permanent farmland protection, providing the initial mechanism for participating in PACE. Participation by individual landowners in an ASA is voluntary. Any owner(s) of land used for agricultural production must submit a petition to their township supervisor for creation of an ASA which must be at least 250 acres. Approval authority for the petition is in the hands of the township supervisors. The term of ASAs is 7 years followed by a re-certification process. In addition, if more than 10% of the land is converted to non-agricultural uses, the ASA may be reviewed. Forest land is included under the definition of eligible land use in ASAs.

Through this program, farm owners can work together to establish areas in which agriculture is the primary activity. Participating farmers are entitled to special consideration from local and state government agencies, which encourage continued use of the land for agricultural purposes. Erie county farmers and residents have been extremely supportive of the program. As of the January 2001, 16 ASAs have been formed covering more than 65,000 acres. Program accomplishments to date include the permanent preservation of 16 farms covering approximately 2,000 acres of productive agricultural lands, assuring that the land will remain forever in farm use.

## Indiana's Farmland Preservation Efforts

Nationally, Indiana ranks second in having the highest percentage of prime farmland, approximately 58%

## Farmland Preservation Continued...

according to the US Department of Agriculture. However, Indiana has also confronted competition for land, especially productive agricultural land. According to Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician, Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, between 1900 and 1992, Indiana lost 6 million acres or 28% of its farmland. Between 1978 and 1992, an average of 88,714 acres per year was lost. Based on data from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the loss of farmland has also affected Northwest Indiana.

In August of 1997 Governor Frank O'Bannon created the Hoosier Farmland Preservation Task Force to:

- Examine historical trends, causes, and consequences of the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses;
- Identify voluntary methods and incentives for preserving and maintaining land for agricultural production; and
- Provide recommendations for enhancing the continued vitality of agricultural activity and for protecting constitutional private property rights.

The Task Force, co-chaired by Lt. Governor Kernan and Purdue University Dean of Agriculture Vic Lechtenberg, represented agriculture, business, academia, government, and the environment. According to the Final Report, task force recommendations balance the preservation of farmland with growth in rural and urban areas. "The Task Force placed high priority on methods to encourage well-planned growth, to preserve and protect farms and to protect private property rights, all in the context that local decision-making is strongly preferred." (Final Report)



LaPorte County, I N

The Task Force Recommendations are:

1. Establish an Indiana Land Resources Council.
2. Require farmland impact assessments from Indiana Departments of Commerce and Transportation.
3. Adopt local ordinances which encourage greater housing density.
4. Enact enabling legislation allowing local areas to voluntarily adopt the following programs: Agricultural Protection Zoning, Agricultural District Programs, Purchase of Development Rights, and Transfer of Development Rights.
5. Foster and enhance urban revitalization programs.
6. Protect the right to farm and private property rights.
7. Develop incentives to encourage development where infrastructure is in place.
8. Update land classification using geographical information systems.
9. Encourage development along existing sewer lines.

The Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) was statutorily created during the 1999 Indiana General Assembly and Governor O'Bannon signed the bill into law in July 1999. In January of 2000, the Governor announced appointments to the Council. ILRC is charged with providing technical assistance and resources to local communities on land use tools and strategies.

The ILRC will create partnerships between local, county and state government units as it addresses land use issues. The Council will make itself available to facilitate collaboration and consensus building at the local level as well as to provide local communities better access to technical information, referrals for legal assistance and additional funding sources for planning projects.

ILRC also considers activities to address land use changes in urban areas due to an increasing number of people moving from urban to rural areas. It is a fact that many Hoosiers are selling their urban and suburban

## Farmland Preservation Continued...

homes and moving to the country. For some, the willingness to make longer commutes or the ability to work from home is giving them freedom to live further from urban areas. People are moving to the country for a variety of reasons - the very reasons long-time rural residents stay in the country: open space, rural character, affordable housing and industry relocation. The Council plans to address this issue of rural and urban disparity, and will provide recommendations on the methods for addressing it.

The Council has also begun to examine land use tools and strategies that have worked in other parts of the United States. Six Council members have participated in past Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tours to Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The tours provided the opportunity to meet some of the best community leaders, and land use and farmland preservation experts in the U.S. who are making a positive impact on land use decision making. Another Ultimate Farmland

Coastal County	1987 Acres in Farms	1997 Acres in Farms
Lake	145,566	148,872
Porter	162,544	142,482
LaPorte	258,506	247,756

Changes in farm acres in northwest Indiana

Tour is scheduled for March 29th to April 2nd. Anyone interested in learning more about land use tools such as conservation easement programs and creative development projects is welcome to attend the Ultimate Farmland Tour and can contact Joe Tutterow, Director of the Land Resource Council, at (317) 234-5262 for more information.

The ILRC opens its meetings to the public, and recommends that attending one is a good first step toward getting involved. They also encourage those interested in land use issues to find out what's happening in their community. In order to prepare for the future, one must be aware of the local development patterns, and

observe where the growth is occurring. Local plan commissions and city and county council meetings are a great place to learn how local land use decisions are made. More information on ILRC initiatives and a copy of the Hoosier Farmland Preservation Task Force Final Report are available at [www.state.in.us/oca/land.html](http://www.state.in.us/oca/land.html)

\*Text for this article was provided by David Skellie, Director, Department of Planning, Erie County Commission and Joe Tutterow, Director, Land Resource Council, Indiana Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture.



LaPorte County, I N





# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program Reaches Great Lakes' Shores

by Georgia Parham, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bloomington Office



Shoreline planting the rainy morning of September 23, 2000, at Blue Heron Lagoon on Belle Isle in the Detroit River. Over 100 volunteers participated in this "Stewardship Kickoff," planting native seed-bank marsh and wet prairie species.

Focusing resources on sensitive coastal areas through partnerships is the goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program. In 2000, the Service coastal program expanded to include the Great Lakes coastlines, as well as areas in the Pacific islands and Alaska. The program, a non-regulatory, partnership-based program, restores and protects coastal habitats, enhances fish passage in coastal watersheds and estuaries, and controls exotic invasive species that threaten coastal areas.

Although coastal areas make up only about 10 percent of the nation's land area, 40 percent of the country's national wildlife refuges are located in coastal areas, and 80 percent of non-game migratory birds and waterfowl depend on the coasts for nesting, foraging, and resting habitat. Because human population density is five times greater along America's coasts than it is in interior regions, coastal areas are among the nation's

most at-risk ecosystems. The Service's Coastal Program was developed specifically to address threats to fish and wildlife resources and their coastal habitats.

The Coastal Program provides funding to 15 high-priority coastal ecosystems across the country, including areas such as the Florida Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, the Gulf of Maine, and San Francisco Bay. The program is guided by six goals, including identifying and prioritizing coastal habitats; identifying threats to coastal resources and ecosystems; providing biological focus for planning in coastal areas; implementing on-the-ground projects with partners; monitoring project impacts; and promoting public stewardship of coastal fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

"The Great Lakes shoreline is considered the nation's fourth coastline,

comparable to our Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. The Service's Coastal Program is an excellent way to identify resource projects within the Great Lakes Basin and then leverage interest and funding of others," said Craig Czarnecki, field supervisor of the Service's Ecological Services Office in East Lansing, Michigan.

Although the Service administers the Coastal Program, Czarnecki stresses that it is not a Service-dictated program. "We seek out partners to help guide us to the best opportunities and shared priorities for maximum benefits for Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources. No one can solve coastal problems on their own. Through the program, we can forge partnerships to pool the resources of state, tribes, private interests and local governments to benefit coastal fish and wildlife," Czarnecki said.

Cooperation among groups sharing similar goals and interests is the key to



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Continued...

success for Coastal Program projects. The program is specifically designed to foster partnerships to achieve results. Examples of partners include Federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, among others. Partnerships among state and federal agencies are important, as well as involvement from local governments and non-governmental organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1994, the Coastal Program and its partners have reopened 3,300 miles of coastal streams for anadromous fish passage; restored 54,160 acres of coastal wetlands; restored 19,670 acres of coastal upland habitat; restored 645 miles of riparian habitat, and protected 227,990 acres of habitat through conservation easements.

In the Great Lakes area, the Coastal Program is just getting started, but efforts are well underway. A total of \$250,000 was earmarked for the Service's Great Lakes - Big Rivers Coastal Program in 2000. Service offices in Wisconsin and Michigan are

partnering with other agencies and groups on a variety of activities all aimed at protecting, restoring or enhancing fish and wildlife and habitats along the shores of the Great Lakes. Some examples of initial efforts include:

- A project by the Ashland, Wisconsin, Fisheries Resource Office and NRCS to remove debris at the mouth of a Lake Superior tributary, allowing passage of anadromous trout and salmon.

- An effort, also by the Ashland FRO and a diverse partnership, to redesign road crossings on the Salmon Trout River - a Lake Superior tributary - that were contributing significant amounts of sediment to the waterway.

- Efforts by the East Lansing, Michigan, Ecological Services Office, Seney National Wildlife Refuge and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to control invasive exotic plant species in the Grand Sable Dunes and other coastal areas.

- Project by the East Lansing office

and partners to restore habitat and reduce sediment on Antrim Creek, a tributary of Lake Michigan.

- Support of interpretive exhibit at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center on Lake Superior that provides information on the Great Lakes coastal ecosystem, threats to the natural resources, and ways to protect those resources.

For more information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, visit the Service's coastal program website at

[www.fws.gov/cep/cepcode.html](http://www.fws.gov/cep/cepcode.html)

Information may also be obtained by contacting the Ashland Fisheries Resource Office at 715-682-6185 or the East Lansing Ecological Services Office at 517-351-2555.

Photographs for this article provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



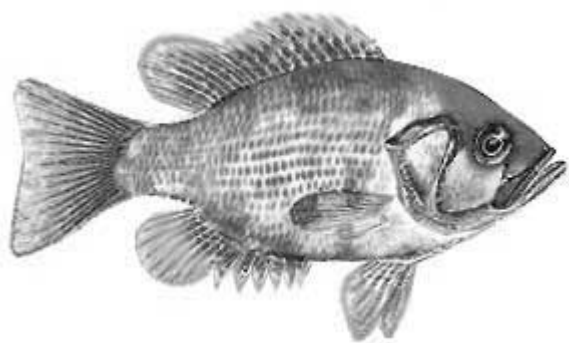
A planted area along Blue Heron Lagoon on Belle Isle in the Detroit River, fenced to prevent local herbivore damage until the plant community becomes well established.

# Lake Michigan Region Fish of the Year 2000

Every year, the Indiana Record Fish program tracks the largest fish of 47 different species caught with hook and line in the state.

This January, the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife recognized 21 anglers for outstanding fish caught in 2000. Big fish catches spanned the state from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River, and from Richmond to Vincennes.

The youngest winner, seven-year-old Nicole Cummings of Schererville, was surprised when she flopped a 9.25-inch rock bass onto a Lake Michigan dock last June. Cummings fooled the rock bass with the tried-and-true "Snoopy pole" and night crawler combo.



## Other big catches from the Lake Michigan Region include:

Tom Berg, Dyer  
Steelhead trout  
32 inches  
Salt Creek, Porter County

Nicole Cummings, Schererville  
Rock bass  
9.25 inches  
1 pound, 4 ounces  
Lake Michigan, Lake County

Tom Berg, Dyer  
Coho salmon  
29.75 inches  
Salt Creek, Porter County

David Miller, Middlebury  
Chinook salmon  
38.25 inches  
26 pounds, 8 ounces  
Lake Michigan, Laporte County

# National Coastal Volunteer Network

by Nina Petrovich

## "Volunteering for the Coast"

<http://www.volunteer.nos.noaa.gov> is an interactive Web site for people exploring volunteer opportunities and for managers creating a volunteer program or improving an existing one. The site features the following useful information.

**"Coastal Volunteer Network"**, a database containing hundreds of volunteer organizations and opportunities. Search a national database containing hundreds of coastal volunteer opportunities. Opportunities can be found based on where, when, and ways to contribute.

**"Success Stories"**, which spotlights various volunteer efforts. Discover the strengths of successful coastal volunteer programs. Articles profiling programs from around the country illustrate unique and effective approaches to managing and motivating volunteers.

**"Resource Links"**, which directs volunteer managers to guidance on every aspect of volunteer management. Managers can add information to the site, and engage in an on-line discussion group.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Ser-

vices Center welcomes participation in Volunteering for the Coast to find volunteering opportunities, or to add your organization and events to its site. The Center also welcomes any comments you have about ways in which to improve the site as an effective tool for volunteer programs.

To learn more about the site, please contact:

Nina Petrovich  
NOAA Coastal Services Center  
(843) 740-1200  
[Nina.Petrovich@noaa.gov](mailto:Nina.Petrovich@noaa.gov)

## NEW GRAPHIC DESIGNER FOR SHORELINES

Shorelines would like to welcome Erin Hiatt as the new Graphic Designer. In addition to working on Shorelines, Erin will also contribute to improving publications and outreach for the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. She has already designed the new program logo that makes its debut on this edition of Shorelines. Erin recently joined DNR's Division of Water in the Public Education and Outreach Section. She previously worked for the Division as an intermittent in the Basin Studies Section. In addition to working full time for the Division of Water, she attends the Herron School of Art. She is working towards a degree in Art History and has studied ceramics, woodworking and drawing. Erin is originally from Greenwood Indiana and her hobbies include painting, hiking, and reading the classics, especially 19th century literature. For this edition of Shorelines, Erin was able to become more familiar with Northwest Indiana and experienced first hand lake-effect weather. Welcome Erin!



Erin Hiatt

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Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program newsletter, "Shorelines", is a publication intended to provide information on issues that affect the Lake Michigan coastal region. Suggestions are welcome and can be submitted to:  
[coastal@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:coastal@dnr.state.in.us)  
or call 1-877-WATER55 (1-877-928-3755)

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